(b) to (d) An Anomaly Committee under the Chairmanship of Home Secretary, Chandigarh Administration and Finance Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the Chandigarh Administration as its Members was constituted. The Committee has since submitted its recommendation to the Government. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration.

Advocates Welfare Fund

1090. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had initiated a move to float an Advocates Welfare Fund;

(b) if so, what is the latest stage of progress in the matter; and

(c) by when a legislation to the effect is likely to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Committte constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Mr. Justice Baharul Islam has, *inter alia* recommended the Constitution of Advocates Welfare Fund in each State. The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Financial assistance to private housing societies

1091. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to extend financial assistance to private housing societies;

(b) if so, what are tht details of such a scheme; and

(c) whether the benefits of such a scheme will also be extended to public institutions constructing houses for their employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) As per the existing guidelines of Reserve Bank of India for housing finance the scheduled commercial banks can provide loans to cooperative housing societies for constructing houses for members. The details regarding period of loans, rate of interest, amount of loan as per the Reserve Bank of India guidelines are as under:

(I) The maximum period of repayment of loans could be upto 15 years.

(II) The rates of interest would be as follows:

Amount of loan	Loan as a percentage of estimated cost (including cost of land)	Rate of interest (per annum)
(*i*) Upto Rs. 20,000/-	80%	12·5%
(*ii*) Above Rs. 20,000/- and upto Rs. 50,000/- .	75%	13·5%
(*iii*) Above Rs. 50,000/- and upto Rs. 1 lakh .	70%	14.0%
(*iv*) Above Rs. 1 lakh	65%	14·5% to 16·0%